



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 6:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - April 17, 2002

- C In the West***, dry, breezy weather prevails across ***southern California and the Four Corners region***, favoring fieldwork but maintaining heavy irrigation demands. Meanwhile, cool showery weather prevails in the ***Northwest***, slowing crop development but boosting moisture reserves for dryland small grains.
- C On the Plains***, cool weather is slowing crop development across ***northern areas***, although pastures and small grains are benefiting from recent topsoil moisture improvements. On the ***central and southern Plains***, very warm, windy weather is depleting topsoil moisture and increasing stress on the drought-affected winter wheat crop.
- C In the Corn Belt***, warm weather continues to elevate soil temperatures, allowing corn planting to progress farther northward. However, soil moisture shortages persist across the ***western Corn Belt***, despite last night's scattered showers and locally severe thunderstorms.
- C In the South***, warm, mostly dry weather is promoting summer crop planting and the rapid development of pastures, winter grains, and emerging summer crops, although unfavorable dryness is returning to portions of the ***middle and southern Atlantic States***.

Outlook: A cool, damp weather pattern is forecast to prevail across the ***northern Plains and Northwest*** for the remainder of the week. Although cooler air will overspread the ***Southwest*** and the remainder of the ***Plains***, breezy, mostly dry weather will persist. Summer-like conditions (warm weather and scattered showers) are forecast from the ***Midwest into the Northeast***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 22-26 calls for a continuation of warm weather across the ***South*** and cool weather in the ***Northwest***. Elsewhere, slightly cooler air is forecast to gradually overspread the ***Plains and Midwest***, accompanied by widespread showers. Significant rainfall is most likely from the ***Corn Belt to the Carolinas***. In contrast, mostly dry weather is expected in the ***West*** and along the ***Gulf Coast***.

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